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Maharishi Vedavyasa, the literary incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead compiled the four Vedas (Atharva, Sam, Rig & Yajur). Despite compiling such a massive masterpiece, he felt dissatisfied.

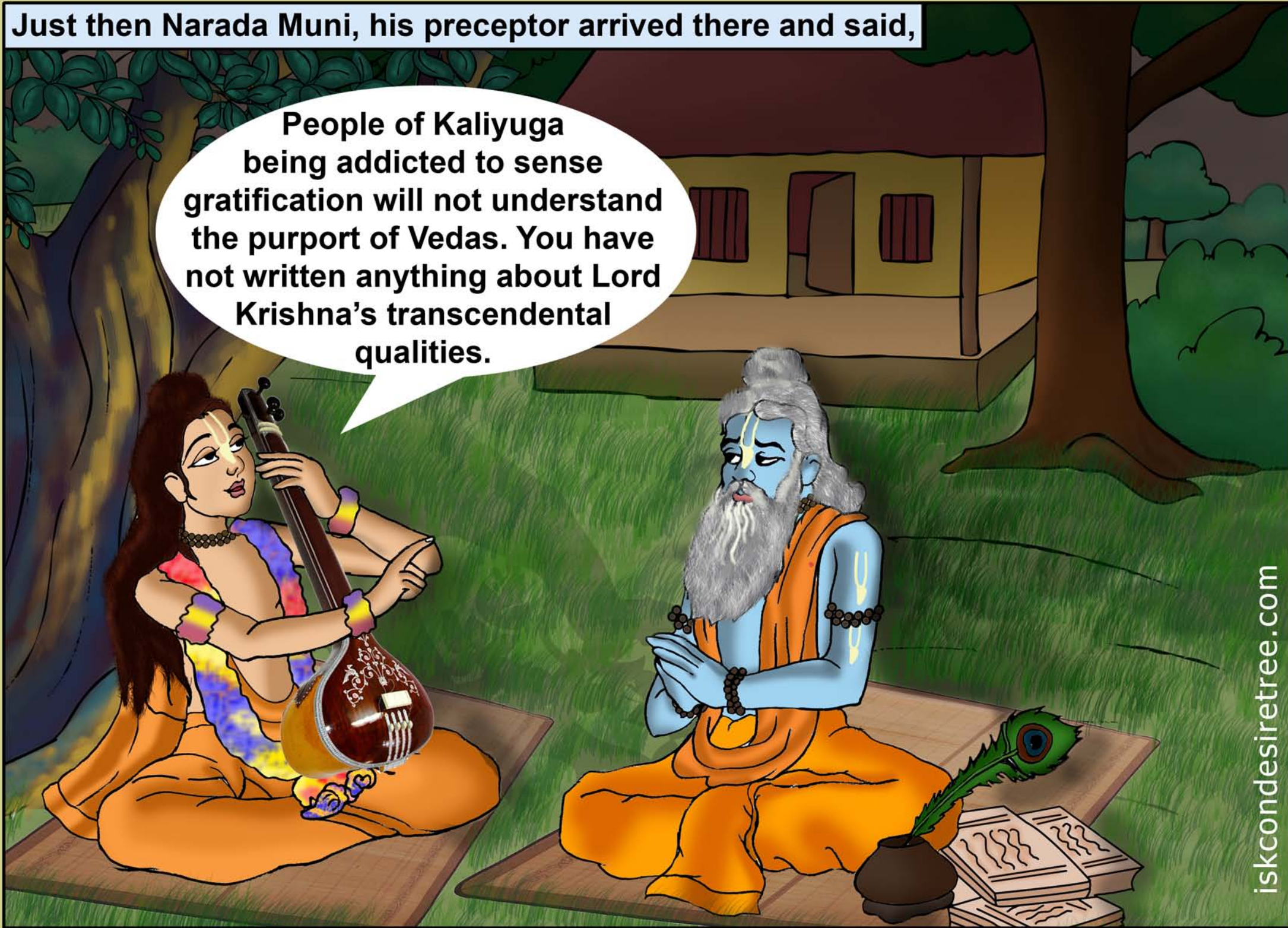


He pondered over it and wondered where he had gone wrong, in his extensive writing on subjects of religiosity, economic development, sense gratification and liberation - the four Purusharthas of life.



Just then Narada Muni, his preceptor arrived there and said,

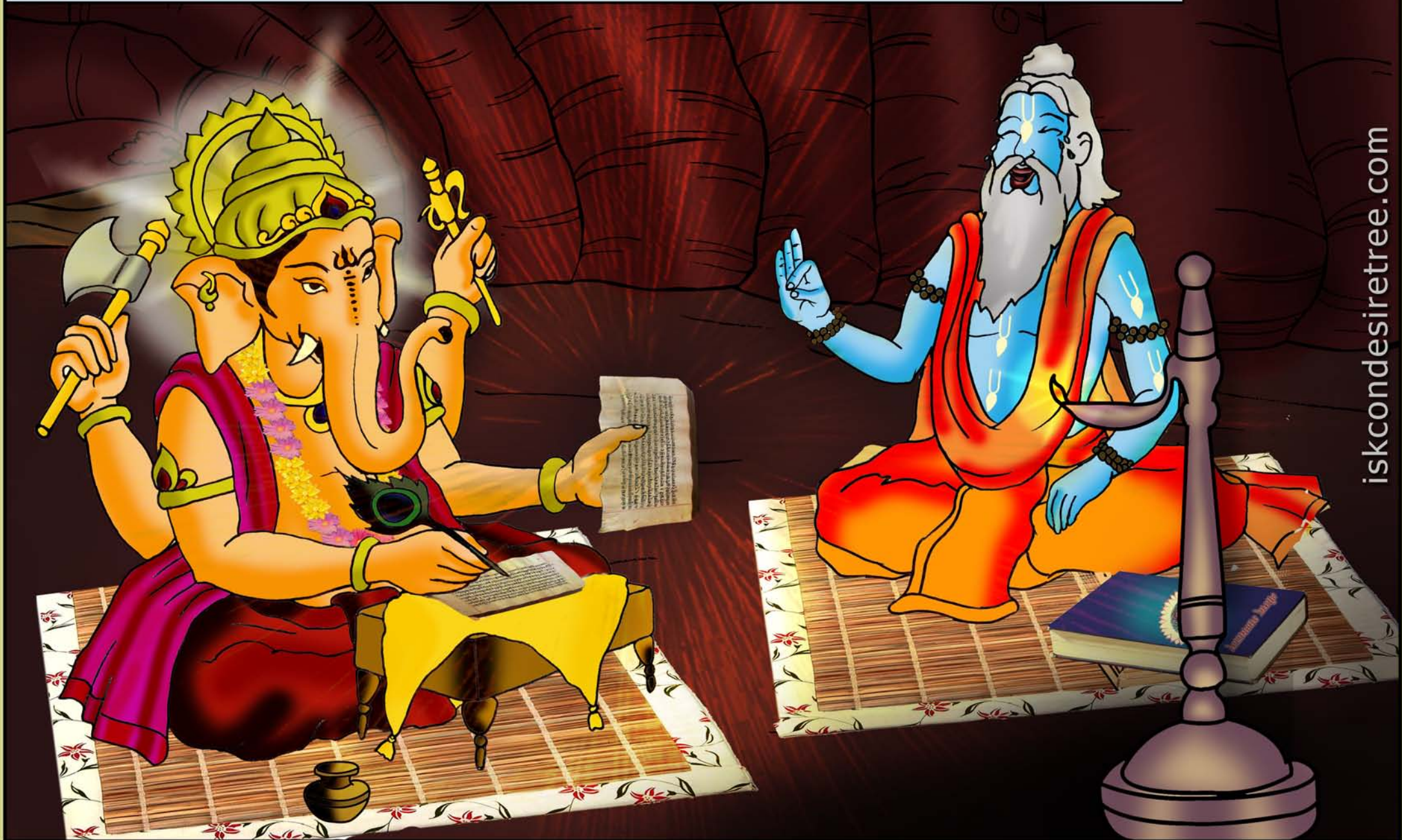
**People of Kaliyuga
being addicted to sense
gratification will not understand
the purport of Vedas. You have
not written anything about Lord
Krishna's transcendental
qualities.**



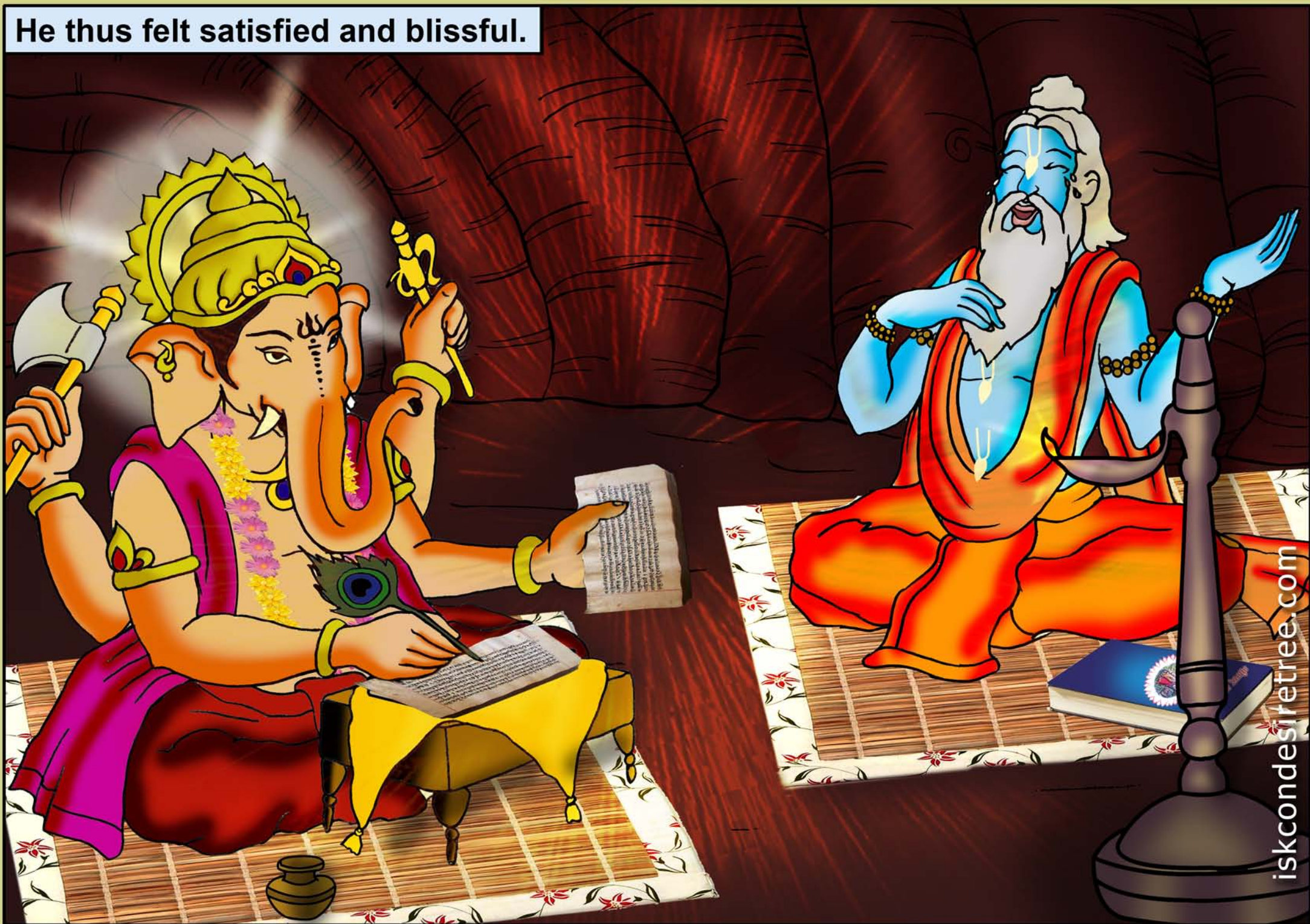
**Compile a scripture
glorifying the Supreme Lord
and pure devotion. By doing
so you will become
blissful.**



On the advice of his spiritual master, Maharishi Vedavyasa composed Shrimad Bhagvatam extolling Lord's transcendental qualities and most importantly pure devotion which is the fifth Purushartha of life.



He thus felt satisfied and blissful.

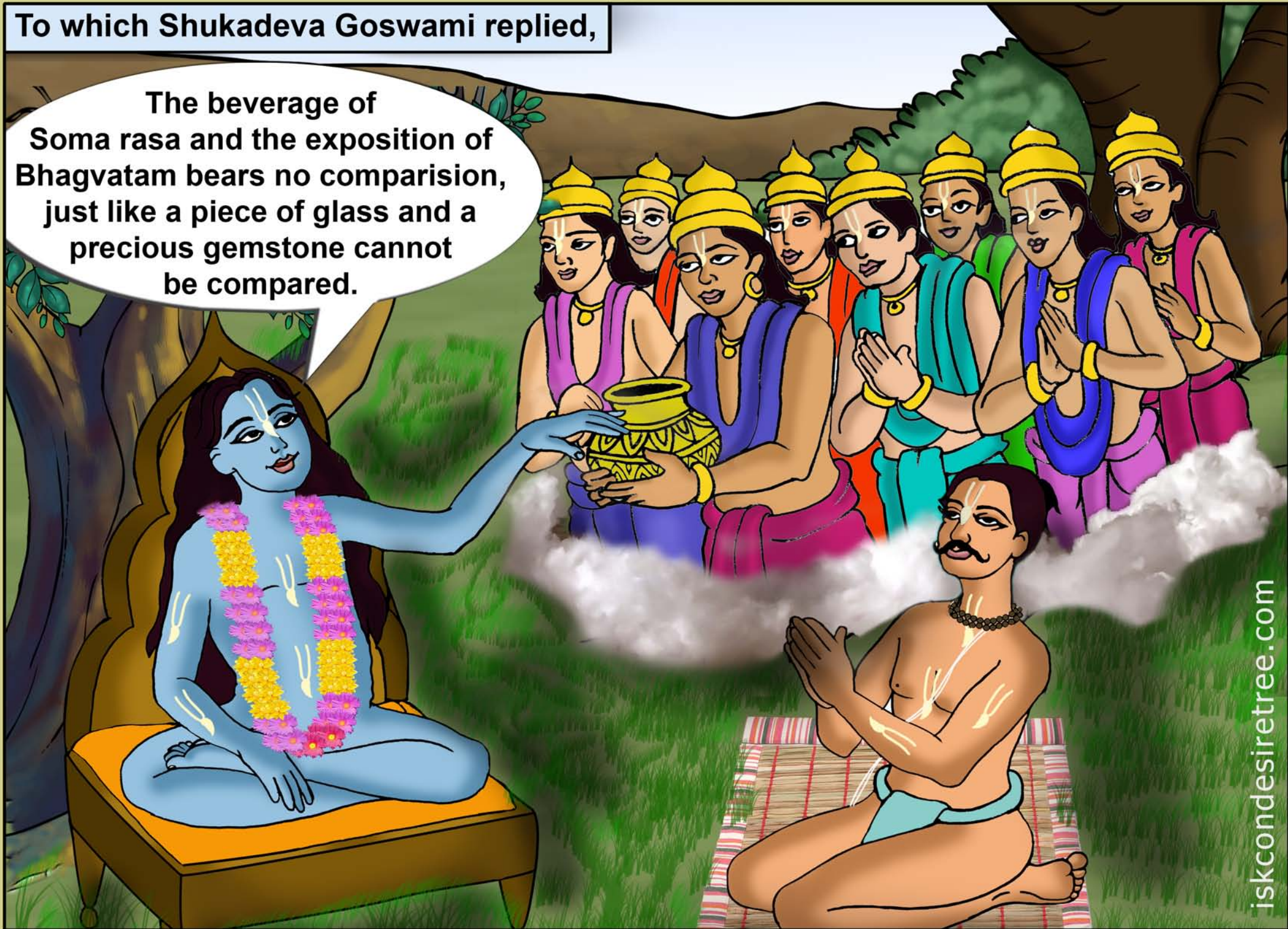


Once when Shukadeva Goswami, in the assembly of sages was about to give an exposition on Shrimad Bhagvatam to Parikshit maharaj, the demigods arrived there to shrewdly exchange the nectar of the discourse on Bhagvatam with the nectar of Soma rasa.

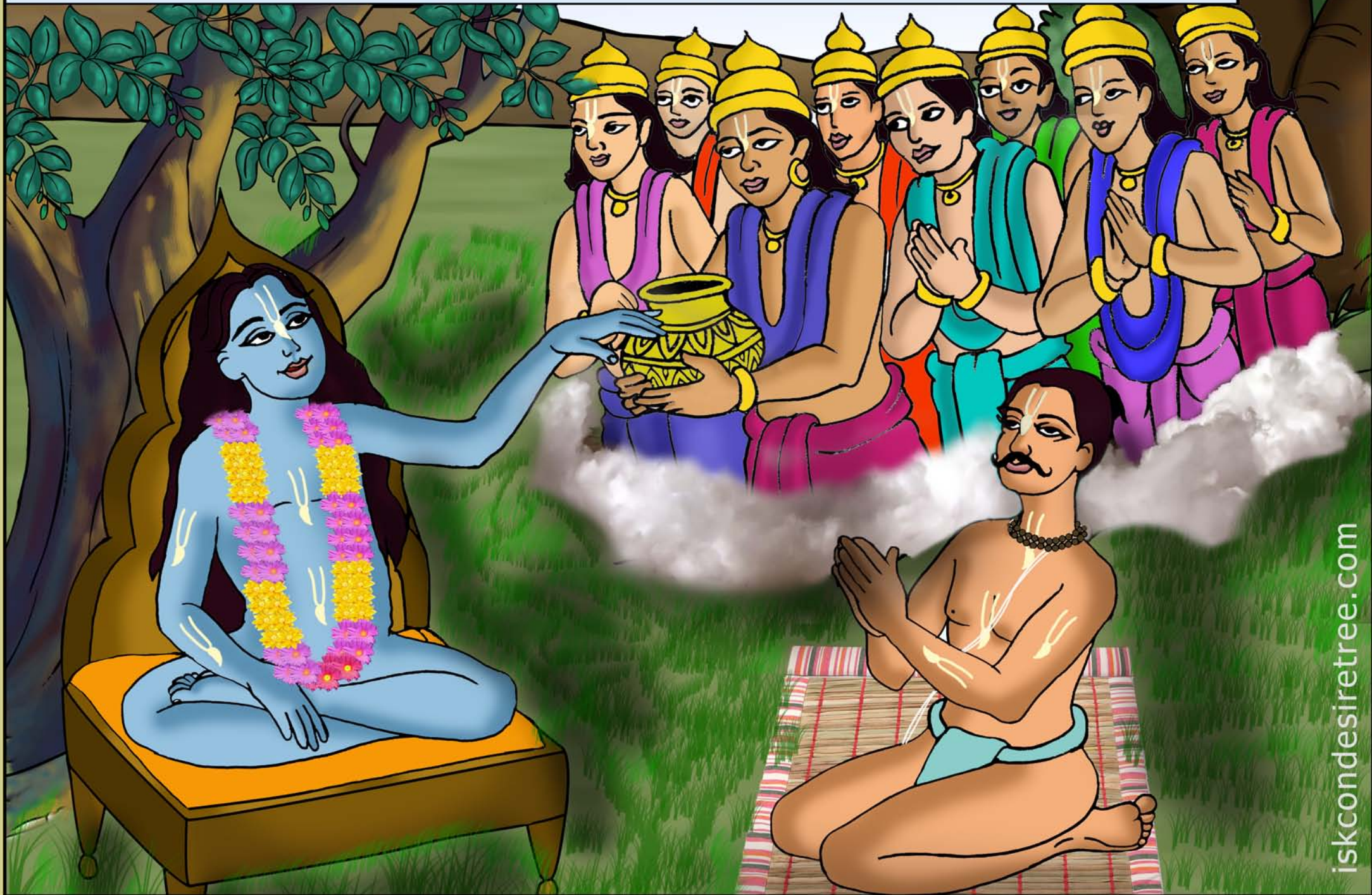


To which Shukadeva Goswami replied,

The beverage of
Soma rasa and the exposition of
Bhagvatam bears no comparision,
just like a piece of glass and a
precious gemstone cannot
be compared.



He did not confer upon them the nectar in the form of Shrimad Bhagvatam. Thus the Bhagvatam's exposition is a rarity, even for the demigods.



Lord Brahma was astonished to witness Maharaj Parikshit's emancipation as result of hearing Shrimad Bhagvatam.



He weighed the Bhagvatam on the spiritual scale, so as to ascertain its spiritual value. He placed Shrimad Bhagvatam on one side and all other scriptures like Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and on the other side of the scale.



Lord Brahma and all the demigods were astonished to find that Bhagvatam outweighed all other scriptures.

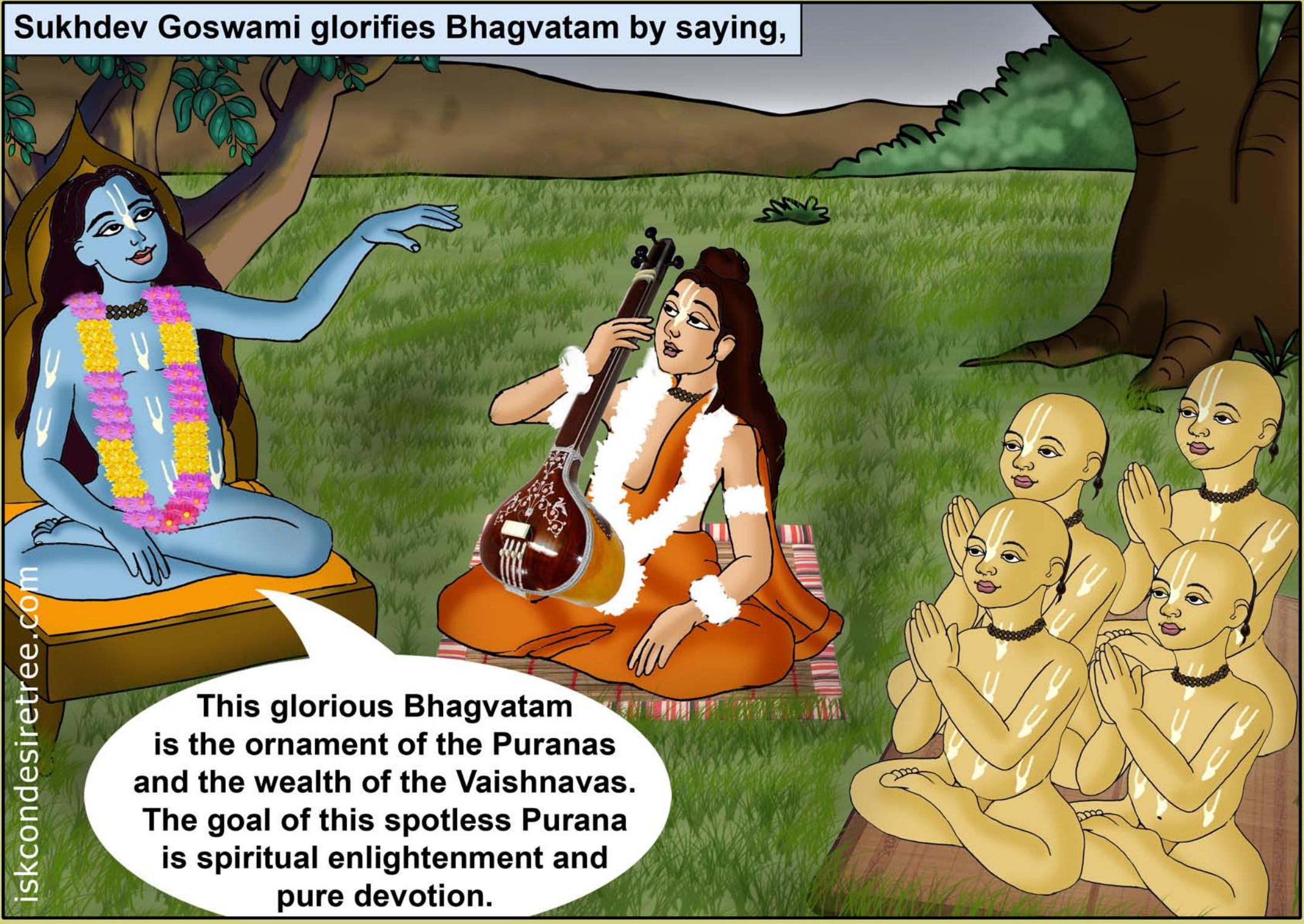


They came to regard this Holy book as an embodiment of the Lord himself, capable of giving speedy access to the divine realm of Lord Krishna.

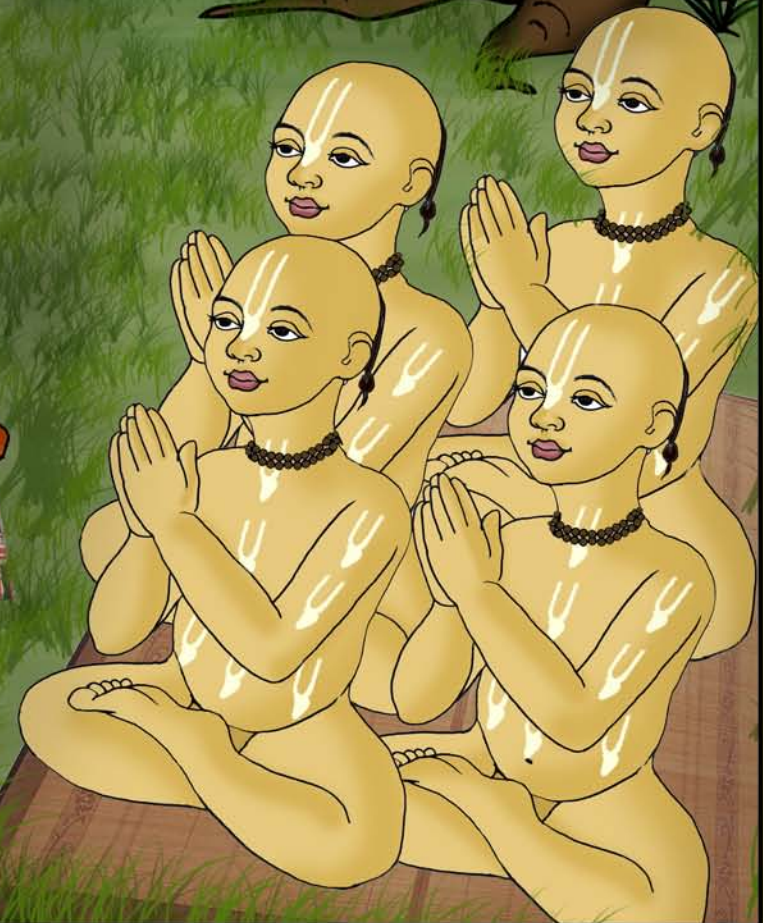


Sukhdev Goswami glorifies Bhagvatam by saying,

**This glorious Bhagvatam
is the ornament of the Puranas
and the wealth of the Vaishnavas.
The goal of this spotless Purana
is spiritual enlightenment and
pure devotion.**



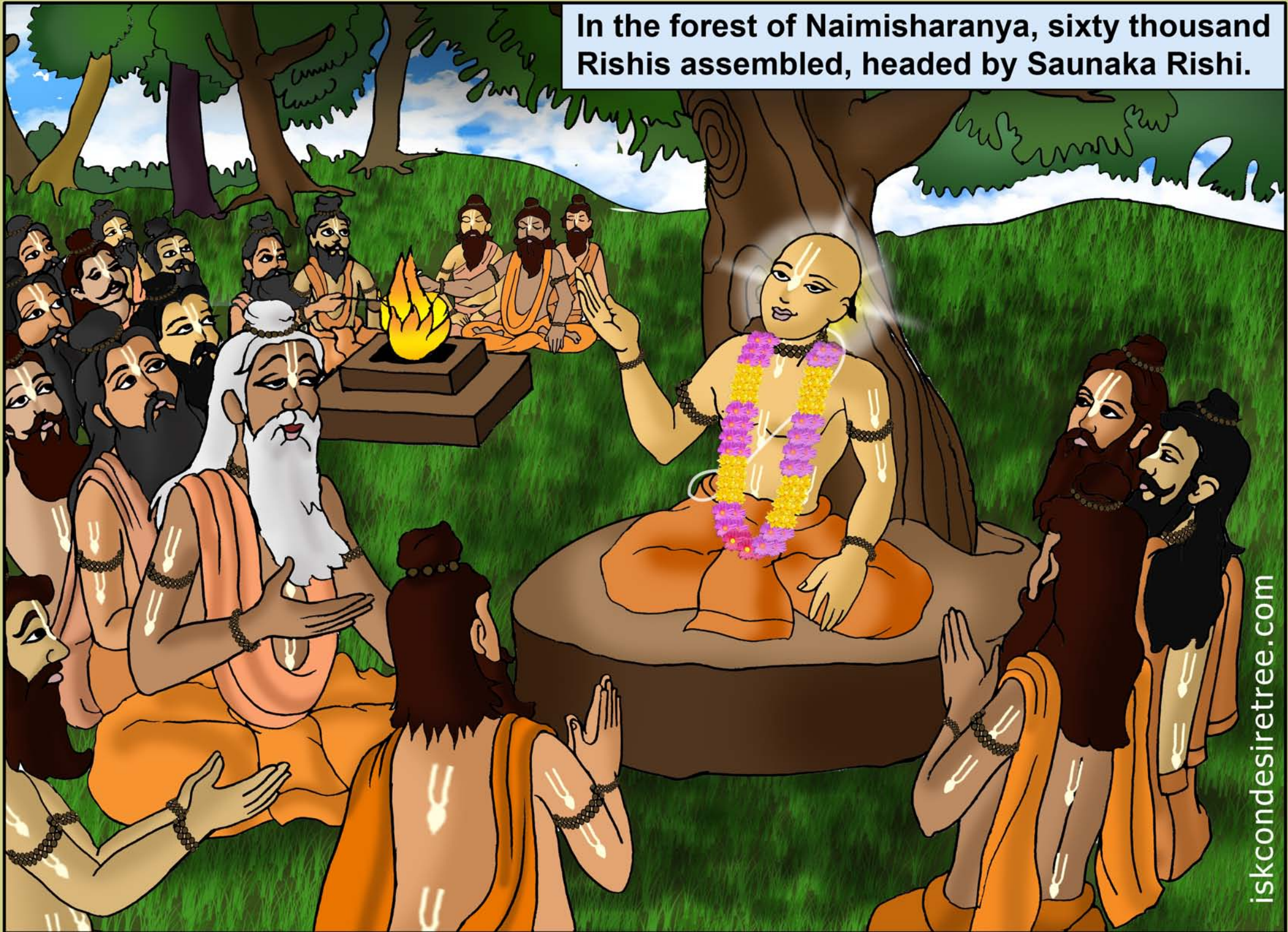
**Anyone who devotedly
listens and carefully reads
Bhagvatam is delivered from
the pangs of material
existence.**



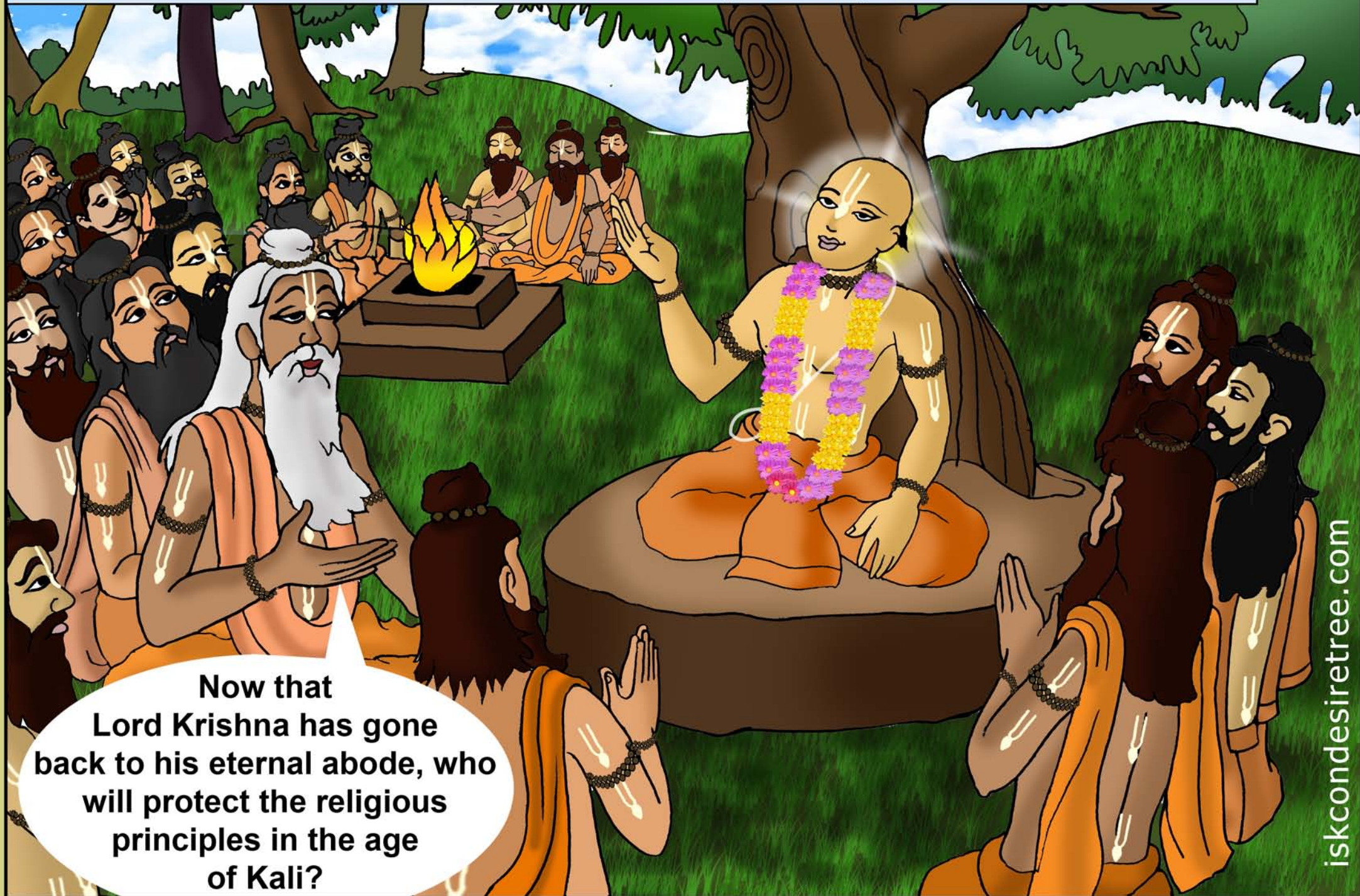
In Shrimad Bhagvat Mahatmaya, in the assembly of demigods it has been declared that a person who has taken birth in Bharatvarsha is useless, if he fails to hear the Shrimad Bhagvatam.



In the forest of Naimisharanya, sixty thousand Rishis assembled, headed by Saunaka Rishi.



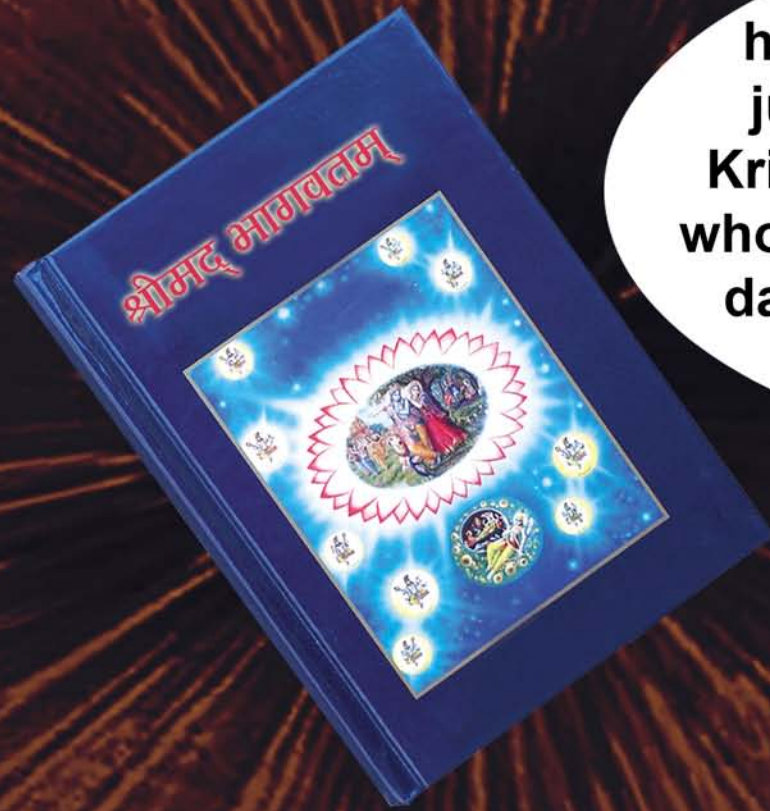
They asked many questions to Suta Goswami who spoke Bhagvatam exactly as he had heard from his Guru. One such important question asked was,



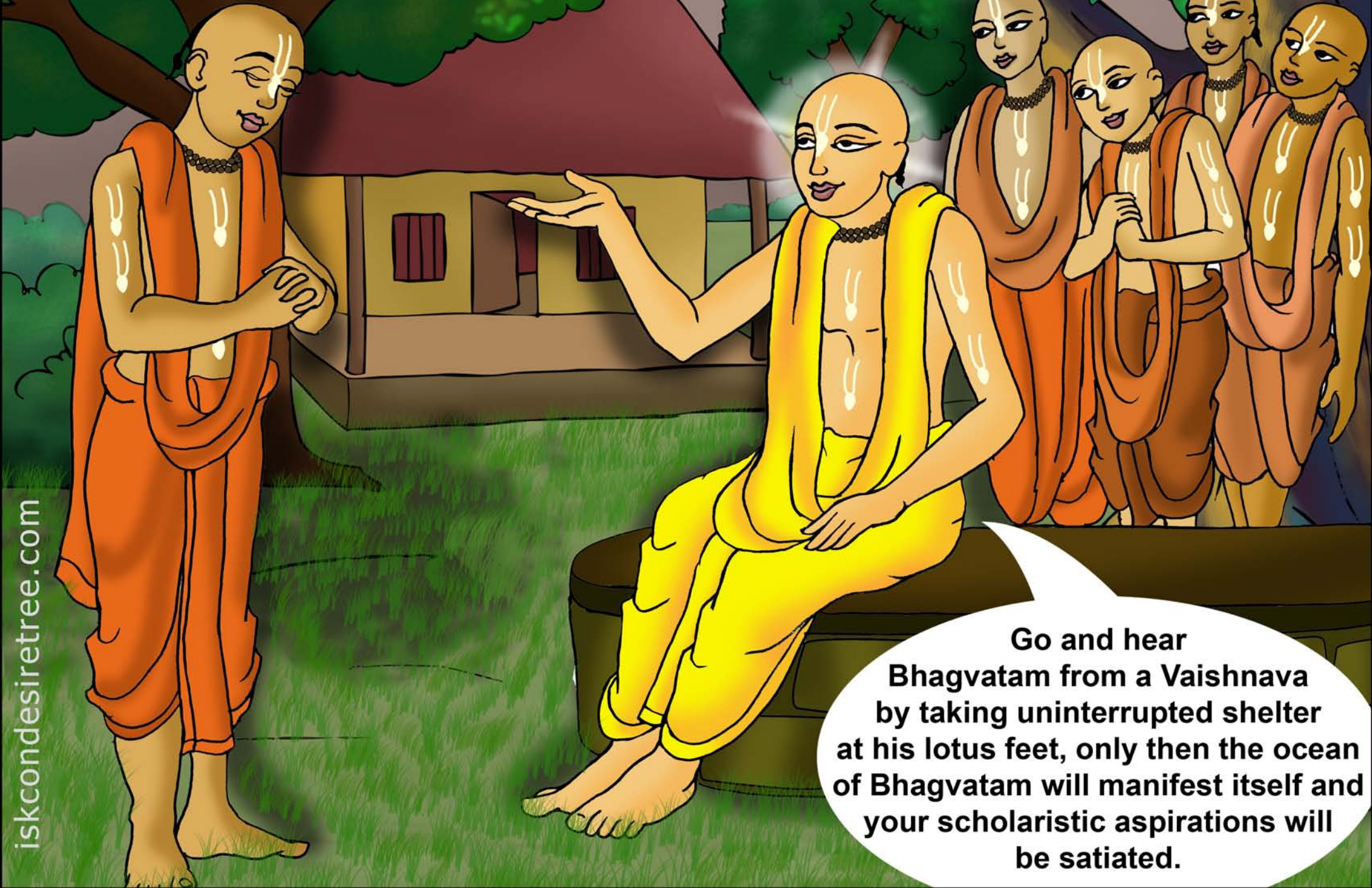
Now that
Lord Krishna has gone
back to his eternal abode, who
will protect the religious
principles in the age
of Kali?

Suta Goswami answered,

The Bhagvat Purana
has risen as brilliant as the sun
just after the departure of Lord
Krishna to his own abode. People,
who have lost their vision due to the
darkness of ignorance in the age
of Kali, shall get light from
this Purana.

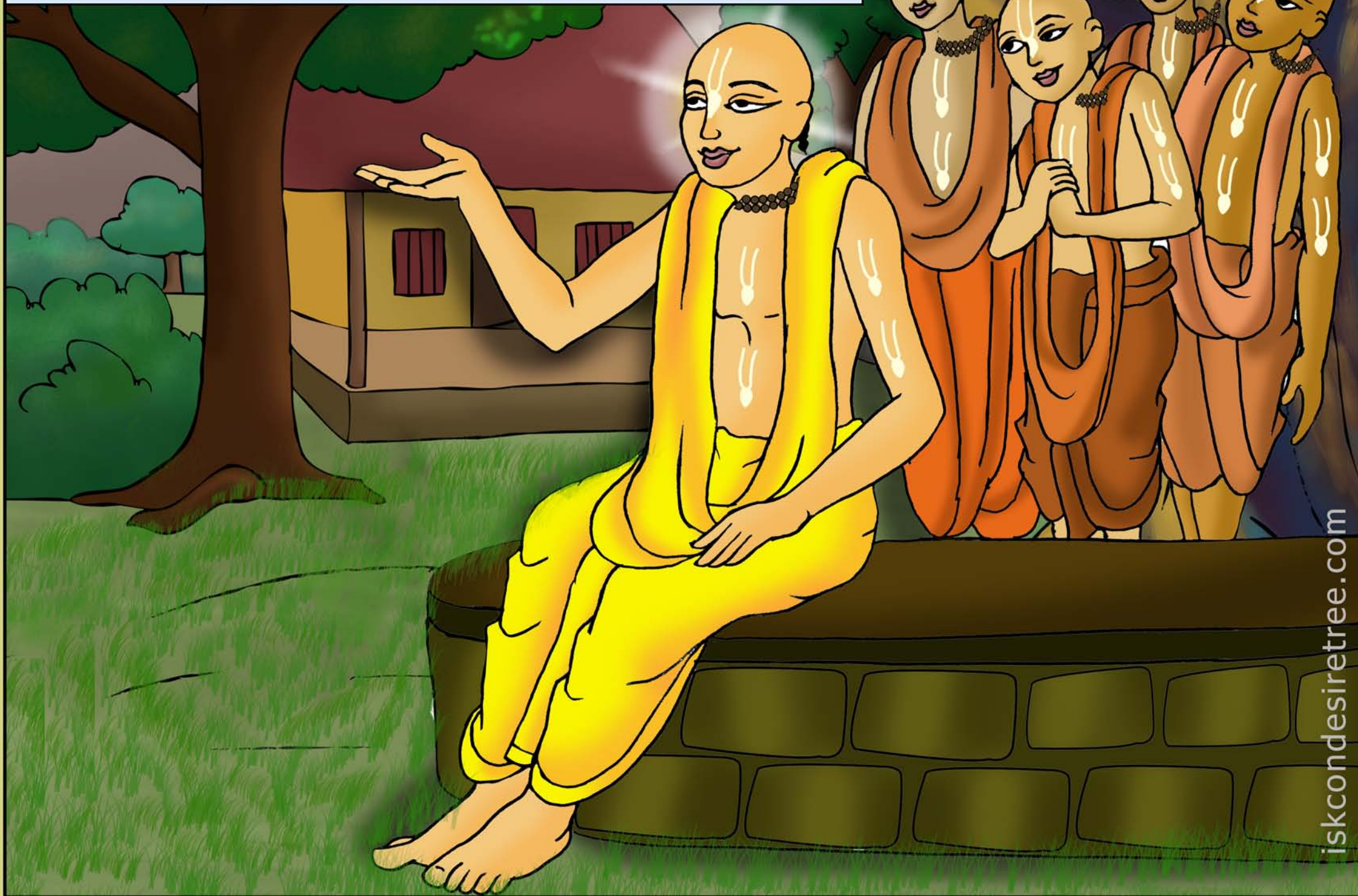


Lord Chaitanya tells Devanada Pandit,



**Go and hear
Bhagvatam from a Vaishnava
by taking uninterrupted shelter
at his lotus feet, only then the ocean
of Bhagvatam will manifest itself and
your scholaristic aspirations will
be satiated.**

Lord Chaitanya personally loved hearing Bhagvatam from the mouth of his pure devotees.



Bhagvatam must be heard from a person who embodies the principles of Bhagvatam.



One is the Granth Bhagvat (Scripture Bhagvat) and the other is Bhakta Bhagvat (Person Bhagvat).



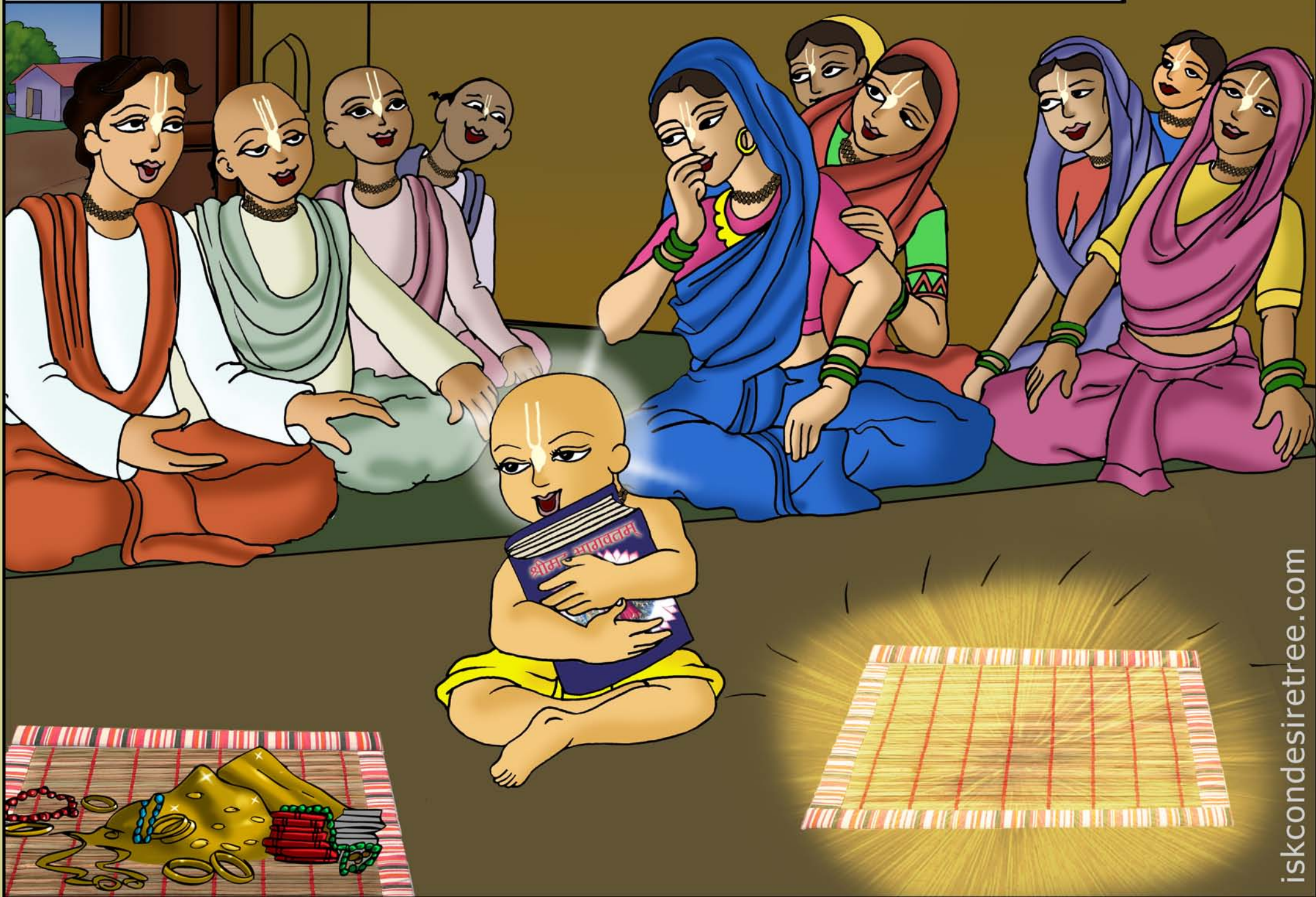
Puranas say that, one should never hear Hari Katha from a person who is not a Vaishnava or an unscrupulous preacher. Such hearing is like drinking milk touched by a snake.

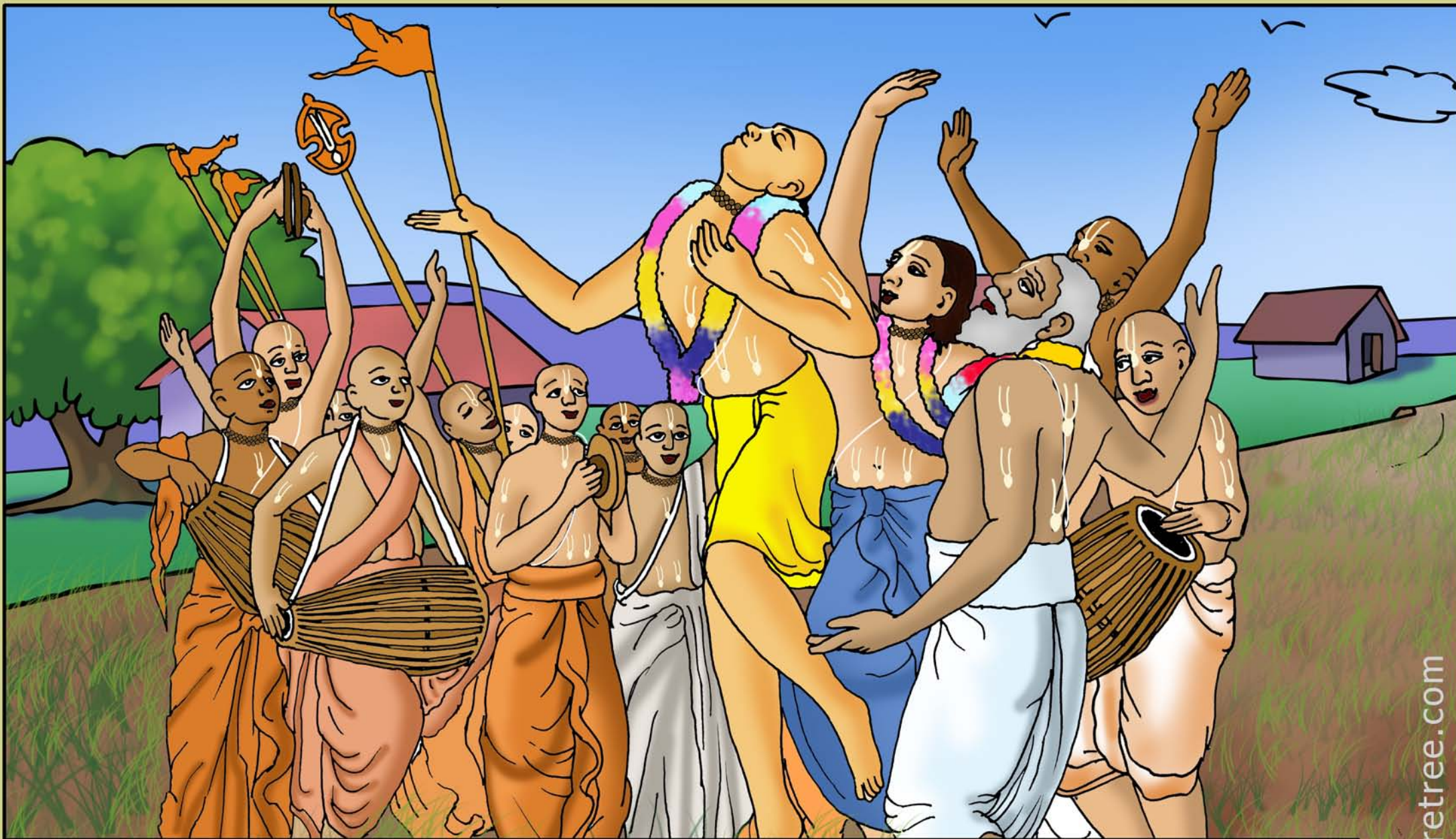


On one occasion, little Nimai was tested by the devotees by placing gold ornaments on one side and Shrimad Bhagvatam on the other, to know his inclination.



Little Nimai left the gold articles and embraced the Shrimad Bhagvatam.





Shrimad Bhagvatam personally extols the appearance of Lord Krishna as Shri Krishna Chaitanya. One of the Navayogendra's explained King Nimi, "In Kaliyuga intelligent people perform the congregational chanting of the Holy name, to worship the incarnation of Godhead, who sings the names of Krishna. Although his complexion is not blackish he is Krishna himself. He is accompanied by his confidential servants."

In Bhagvat Mahatmaya, the four Kumara's instruct Narada Muni...

Hearing many scriptures and Puranas only creates confusion in one's mind. Bhagvatam is complete in all respects.



**Thousands of
Ashwamedha and Vajapeya
sacrifices as well as bathing in
all Holy places like Prayaga or
Pushkara cannot be compared
to the hearing of Shrimad
Bhagvatam.**



!!! Shrimad Bhagvat Puran Ki Jai !!!
!!! Maharishi Vedavyasa Ki Jai !!!

Script : Madanmanjari devi dasi
Graphics : Sanjay Ghosh, Bhagvad Chintan Das
& Ranjana Sawant
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